

school attended after high school graduation. Application forms are available upon request by writing to the Admissions Office at the Academy.

(b) *Selection of Midshipmen.* Selection of midshipmen for appointment to fill vacancies allotted to the various States and other locations, as specified in § 310.53(b) (1) and (2) of this subpart, shall be in order of merit. The order of merit shall be determined on the scores of the required entrance examinations, on assessment of the academic background of the individual and on such other factors as are considered by the Academy to be effective indicators of motivation and the probability of successful completion of training at the Academy. No preference shall be granted in selecting individuals for appointment because one or more members of their immediate families are alumni of the Academy.

(c) *Notification of selection.* Results of the selection process will be made known about May 1 each year. The Academy shall advise each candidate and his or her nominating official of his or her status as a principal candidate, as an alternate candidate or as an unqualified candidate. Alternates will replace principal candidates who decline appointment or fail to meet the physical requirements or the security and suitability investigation.

(d) *Service obligation agreement.* Each candidate selected for appointment to the Academy after April 1, 1982, who is a citizen of the United States, shall sign a service obligation contract as a condition of admission. The contract is prescribed in § 310.58 of this subpart.

(e) *Reporting to the Academy.* Candidates who accept offers of appointment shall, pursuant to instructions issued by the Academy, report to the Academy on a specified date in mid-July for orientation and induction.

(f) *Oath.* Each midshipman who is a citizen of the United States shall take the following oath of office at the Academy:

"I, _____, having been appointed a midshipman to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, accept appointment and do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will comply with all the reg-

ulations of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, so help me God."

(g) *Birth Certificate.* Each candidate shall present a certificate of birth authenticated by an authorized official.

§ 310.58 Service obligation for students enrolled after April 1, 1982.

(a) *Form of service obligation contract.* The service obligation contract shall obligate each midshipman who is a citizen and who enters the Academy after April 1, 1982, to:

(1) Complete the course of instruction at the Academy, unless sooner separated by the Academy;

(2) Fulfill the requirements for a license as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States on or before the date of graduation from the Academy;

(3) Maintain a license as an officer in the merchant marine of the United States for at least six (6) years following the date of graduation from the Academy;

(4) Apply for an appointment as, accept any tendered appointment as and serve as a commissioned officer in the USNR (including the Merchant Marine Reserve, USNR), the United States Coast Guard Reserve, or any other Reserve component of an armed force of the United States for at least six (6) years following the date of graduation from the Academy;

(5) Serve the foreign and domestic commerce and the national defense of the United States for at least five (5) years following the date of graduation from the Academy:

(i) As a merchant marine officer serving on vessels documented under the laws of the United States or on vessels owned and operated by the United States or by any State or territory of the United States;

(ii) As an employee in a United States maritime-related industry, profession or marine science (as determined by the Administrator), if the Administrator determines that service under paragraph (a)(5)(i) of this section is not available;

(iii) As a commissioned officer on active duty in an armed force of the United States or NOAA; or

(iv) By combining the services specified in paragraphs (a)(5)(i), (ii) and (iii) of this section; and,

(6) Submit periodic reports to the Administration to establish compliance with all the terms of the contract.

(b) *Service as a merchant marine officer.* For purposes of the service obligation, a satisfactory year of service on vessels as a merchant marine officer shall be the lesser of—

(1) 150 days; or

(2) The number of days that is at least equal to the median number of days of seafaring employment under articles achieved by deck or engine officers in the most recent calendar year for which statistics are available.

(c) *Marine-related employment.* (1) Graduates who do not meet the sea service requirement in paragraph (b) of this section and who claim employment in a United States maritime-related industry, profession or marine science as meeting all or part of the service obligation under paragraph (a)(5) of this section and the serve obligation contract shall submit evidence to the Administration that they have conscientiously sought employment as a merchant marine officer, and that such employment is not available. Such evidence submitted, and other information available to the Administration, shall be considered in any finding. In view of current and projected employment opportunities afloat, the Administrator will grant the shoreside employment option infrequently and only on the basis of comprehensive evidence.

(2) The Administrator may consider positions of operational, management or administrative responsibility, including, but not limited to, the following marine-related categories, to be under the provisions of § 310.58(a)(5)(ii) of this subpart and the service obligation contract: Civilian employment in Federal and State agencies related to maritime affairs; steamship companies; stevedoring companies; vessel chartering and operations; cargo terminal operations; naval architecture; shipbuilding and repair; municipal and State port authorities; and port devel-

opment, marine engineering, and tug and barge companies.

(d) *Reporting requirements.* Each graduate shall submit an employment report to the Academies Program Officer, Office of Maritime Labor and Training, Maritime Administration, NASSIF Building, 400 7th St., SW, Washington, DC 20590, on or before July 1 of each year following his or her year of graduation for five consecutive years. Each graduate granted a deferment to engage in a graduate course of study shall submit annual reports for the extension of the five (5) year obligation period resulting from such deferment. The Administration shall provide reporting forms. However, non-receipt of such form shall not exempt a graduate from submitting employment information as required by this paragraph. The reporting requirements for graduates will not become effective until there are Academy graduates subject to this provision, no earlier than 1986. The specific form to be developed by the Administration will be subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

(e) *Breach of contract.* (1) If the Administration determines that any individual who has attended the Academy for not less than 2 years has failed to complete the course of instruction at the Academy, the Secretary of the Navy may order that individual to active duty in the U.S. Navy, at a rating determined by the U.S. Navy, to serve for a period of time not to exceed 2 years. The Administration shall submit the list of those who have breached their service obligation contract to the Chief of Naval Education and Training, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida 32508.

(2) If the Administration determines that a graduate of the Academy has broken his or her agreement under paragraphs (a)(2) through (6) of this section and the service obligation contract, such individual may be ordered to active duty to serve a period of time not less than three (3) years and not more than the unexpired portion of the service required under said subparagraph (5) and the contract. The Administrator, in consultation with the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast

Guard, shall determine in which service the graduate shall serve and the period of time. The branch of service in which the individual serves shall determine the rank or rating of the individual. If the Secretary of Defense is unable or unwilling to order an individual to active duty, the Secretary of Transportation may recover from the individual the cost of education provided by the Federal Government by requesting the Attorney General to begin court proceedings to recover the costs of that education.

(f) *Waivers.* The Administrator shall have the discretion to grant waivers of the service obligation contract in cases where there would be undue hardship or impossibility of performance due to accident, illness or other justifiable reason. Applications for waivers shall be submitted to the Academies Program Officer, Office of Maritime Labor and Training, Maritime Administration, NASSIF Building, 400 7th St., SW, Washington, DC 20590.

(g) *Deferments.* In exceptional cases, the Administration may grant a deferment of all or part of the agreement under paragraph (a)(5) of this section and the service obligation contract, for a period not to exceed 2 years, only for graduates considered to have superior academic and conduct records while at the Academy and only for the purpose of entering a marine or maritime-related graduate course of study approved by the Administrator; *Provided,* That any deferment of service as a commissioned officer under paragraph (a)(5)(iii) of this section and the service obligation contract shall be subject to the sole approval of the Secretary of the department which has jurisdiction over such service (including the Secretary of the department in which the U.S. Coast Guard is operating and the Secretary of Commerce with respect to NOAA). A graduate shall make application for such deferment through the Superintendent of the Academy, who shall forward each application, together with the Superintendent's recommendation for approval or disapproval and an evaluation of the applicant's academic and conduct records, to the Academies Program Officer, Office of Maritime Labor and Training, Maritime Administra-

tion, NASSIF Building, 400 7th St., SW, Washington, DC 20590 for appropriate action.

(h) *Determination of compliance with service obligation contract; deferment; and review procedures.* (1) A designated official of the Administration shall:

(i) Determine whether a student or graduate has breached his or her service obligation contract;

(ii) Grant or deny a deferment of the service obligation, except for obligations otherwise a part of the graduate's commissioned officer status; and,

(iii) Grant or deny a waiver of the requirements of the service obligation contract in cases of undue hardship or impossibility of performance due to accident, illness or other justifiable reason.

(2) A Review Panel, consisting of a representative of the Administration serving as Presiding Official and representatives of the Department of the Navy, NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard, shall review decisions of the designated official under paragraph (h)(1) of this section upon written request of the student or graduate.

(3) The Administrator shall adopt procedures for the Review Panel. Actual notice of such procedures will be given to each midshipman at the time of enrollment in the Academy.

(4) The decisions of the Review Panel shall be final.

[47 FR 21812, May 20, 1982, as amended at 60 FR 44438, Aug. 28, 1995]

§ 310.59 Courses of instruction.

(a) *At Academy.* Three major curriculums are offered: Nautical Science, for the preparation of deck officers; Marine Engineering, for the preparation of engineering officers; and the Dual License Program, a combined course which leads to licenses in both specialties. All midshipmen who are citizens shall take naval science courses prescribed by the Department of the Navy. All curriculums include general education courses and electives.

(b) *Sea year.* Midshipmen spend one-half of their sophomore (third class) year and one-half of their junior (second class) year training at sea aboard one or more merchant vessels. In addition to practical shipboard assignments, midshipmen are required to